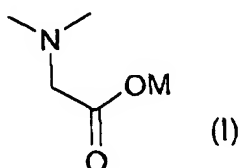


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Abstract

5 A composition for the surface treatment of metals and for the deposition of metals or metal alloys and plastics surfaces comprises

- a) at least one polymer as component A, comprising at least one structural unit of the formula (I)



where this structural unit may be part of a polymer main chain or may be bound to a polymer main chain via an anchor group, and

15 M is hydrogen or an ammonium or metal cation;

- b) water or another solvent which is suitable for dissolving, dispersing, suspending or emulsifying the polymer (component A), as component B;

- 20 c) if required, surface-active compounds, dispersants, suspending media and/or emulsifiers as component C;

either

- 25 d) if required, a salt, an acid or a base based on transition metal cations, transition metal oxoanions, fluorometallates or lanthanoids as component D, and/or

- e) at least one acid selected from the group consisting of phosphoric acid, sulfuric acid, sulfonic acid, nitric acid, hydrofluoric acid and hydrochloric acid as
30 component E, or a base

and/or

- f) at least one metal oxide and/or metal salt as component F.

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Furthermore, in a process for the surface treatment of metals and in a process for the deposition of metals or metal alloys on a metal surface or plastics surface, the metal surface or plastics surface is brought into contact with a polymer (component A). Moreover, polymers (component A) are used for the surface treatment of metals and for the deposition of metals or metal alloys on a metal surface or plastics surface.